

shape. Of course, something could happen tomorrow. You never know." Falkenstien's exit will mark the end of an era.

"I can remember my father listening to Max on a battery-powered radio out on the farm," said Dr. Earl Merkel, a 73-year-old KU Medical School alumnus from Russell. "In Kansas, everybody identifies with him," Merkel said. "They may not have met him, but they know his voice. They feel like they know him." "Max is an institution," said John Clarke, a 1979 KU graduate who lives in Hays. "He is synonymous with the Jayhawks. When you hear him, you think of KU."

Falkenstien and his play-by-play partner, Bob Davis, have a one-of-a-kind relationship. "I don't think we've ever argued or had a disagreement," Falkenstien said. "We've had a lot of laughs in 22 years," Davis said. Both are native Kansans. Falkenstien grew up in Lawrence, Davis in Hays. Neither is young. Davis is 61.

"When you stand the test of time like they have for 22 years, you must be doing something right," said Tom Hedrick, a veteran broadcaster who competed with Falkenstien from the late 1940s into the early 1960s. "It'll be difficult for anyone else to do what Bob and Max have done because people move around so much now," said Hedrick, who's semiretired and lives in Lawrence. Falkenstien and Davis have stayed put. Both have other jobs. Davis is play-by-play announcer for the Kansas City Royals. Falkenstien was senior vice president of marketing for Douglas County Bank for 25 years. He remains an occasional consultant. "I've led a charmed life, I know," Falkenstien said.

While a senior at Liberty Memorial High School (now Central Junior High School, 1400 Mass.) Falkenstien heard that local radio station WREN had a job opening. He'd been told he had a good voice for radio, so he applied. "Arden Booth, who a lot of people will remember, had been called into the service," Falkenstien said. "I got the job, but it had nothing to do with sportscasting. I was just a staff announcer."

Falkenstien graduated from LMHS in 1942, six months after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. After a semester at KU, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in hopes of becoming a meteorologist. "I put in 35 months, but I never went overseas," he said. Falkenstien returned to Lawrence. He'd been in town about a week when his former boss at WREN asked him to broadcast a basketball game in Kansas City that pitted KU against Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University) in the NCAA district finals.

The fact he'd never done play-by-play didn't matter.

"Back then, it wasn't like it is now. People didn't expect to hear a game on the radio. They'd read about it in the newspaper," he said. "What we were doing was new." Falkenstien stayed at WREN until 1967, when he had a falling out with the station's owner, former Kansas Gov. Alf Landon. The Big Eight Conference wanted him to be the play-by-play announcer for its televised "Game of the Week." "Back then," Falkenstien said, "there was only one game a week that was televised. So this was a big deal for me."

But Landon refused to let his station manager, Falkenstien, appear on television. "I kept saying it would make me more sellable—that would be good for business," Falkenstien said. "But he just didn't get the concept." Falkenstien jumped to WIBW-TV, where he continued to broadcast KU football and basketball games.

In 1984, KU decided to put the broadcast rights to its basketball and football games up for bid. Before then, Falkenstien and

Hedrick broadcast the games for different stations. Learfield Communications, a company based in Jefferson City, Mo., won the bid in 1985. It brought in Davis, who had been broadcasting Fort Hays State University games for 16 years. Falkenstien was offered the sidekick role. "I had a lot of misgivings at first," Falkenstien said. But Davis welcomed the chance to work with Falkenstien.

"I know this sounds a little corny, but when I was growing up my heroes were sportscasters, and Max was one of the first ones out there," Davis said. "He was a pioneer."

Together, Davis and Falkenstien have mastered a low-key, fishing-buddy delivery that's unpretentious, never overbearing.

"Bob and I try to keep things in perspective," Falkenstien said. "Games are supposed to be fun. They're not the end of the world." He added: "It's like Dr. (Phog) Allen used to tell his players. He'd say, 'Remember, guys, there are 300 million Chinese out there who don't even know who we are.'" Falkenstien said he and Davis keep the game simple, their delivery conversational. "Too many color commentators are too analytical," Falkenstien said. "They lose the average fan."

Neither Davis nor Falkenstien pretend to be experts. "I remember one time, I had to ask Roy Williams what a 'secondary break' was, so I'd look smart," Falkenstien said, laughing. In the game programs, Falkenstien used to be listed as color analyst. "I had them drop the 'analyst,'" he said. "I'm just 'color.'"

The broadcasts are not as laid-back as they appear. Davis scrambles to keep track of fouls and points while Falkenstien plucks statistics from a nearby monitor, lifts tidbits from the day's sports pages and pulls trivia from packets provided by the teams' athletic departments—all while the game is going on, all without missing a beat.

Contrary to popular opinion, their press-row seats across from the KU bench are not the best in Allen Fieldhouse. They cannot see the scoreboard without leaning back and looking straight up. They are so cramped they cannot stand or cross their legs. Many times, a referee blocks their view. During the Yale game, Davis barked "there's a turnover" without mentioning who had stolen the ball from whom. That's because he couldn't see the play; referee Steve Welmer was standing in front of him, less than an arm's length away.

After the game, Falkenstien is the first—and only—member of the media allowed to meet with Self in the coaches' dressing room.

When they finish, Self leaves for a meeting with the press corps at-large. He uses a back door. Falkenstien leaves through the front door, where hopeful fans wait for autographs. He is an easy target. "Max! Max! Over here!" said Genie Gnagi, standing behind her 6-year-old daughter, Michaela, with a miniature plastic basketball. "May we have your autograph, please?"

Without hesitation, a smiling Falkenstien complies. "He is a true KU legend," Gnagi said. "He will be missed."

TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO (PACO) ROVIRA-CALIMANO

HON. LUIS FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Mr.

Francisco Rovira-Calimano, whose life work serves as an example to us all. He is a hard-working gentleman, an honest citizen, and a true humanitarian dedicated to the betterment of humanity. Today, Mr. Rovira-Calimano celebrates his 95th birthday—and this is a cause for great celebration.

Paco, as everyone knows him in his beloved town of Guayama, Puerto Rico, was born on February 1, 1911, to Amalia Calimano-Diaz and Jose Rovira-Tomas, his hard-working parents, an exemplary couple in that lovely town by the Guamani River. As the eldest child, Paco soon learned the value of sharing, supporting others, fairness, and hard work principles—values which he has sustained throughout his long and fruitful life. He was an exceptional son, who for 20 years took care of all his mother's needs after his father passed away. He is a man of few words but strong actions and convictions.

While growing up, he attended the Guayama public schools system during his elementary school years, then St. Augustine Academy in San Juan and completed high school at Peekskill Military Academy in New York State. He attended college at Louisiana State University and graduated from The New York State Institute of Agriculture in 1934. Since childhood, he had worked at the family dairy farm "La Cuadra", doing extensive manual labor, and upon graduation he returned to work there. Later, he also acquired "La Tuna", a farm which he skillfully managed raising sugar cane, plantains, cattle and tending to his beloved Paso Fino horses.

Over the years, Paco was involved in many civic endeavors. He joined and became an active member of the Farmers Association of Puerto Rico. Additionally, he was an active member of the Regulatory Board of the Milk Producing Industry, of which he is still an honorary member. He has also been a member of the Guayama Rotary Club for over 40 years and served as its president in 1957. He was a member and an active board member of the "Asociación de Dueños de Caballos de Paso Fino de Puerto Rico", (Paso Fino Horse Owner Association). For many years he collaborated with the "Asociación Agropecuaria" (Agriculture and Livestock Association) from Mayaguez, and was a board member for two years. His main goal was to bring together people from all walks of life sharing a common interest.

Paco's life spans through WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, the Korean war, the Vietnam conflict, and the two gulf wars in Iraq. He has seen 17 Presidents enter the White House and even though he is an American citizen residing in Puerto Rico, he unfortunately cannot vote for the President because of where he lives. However, he has always wanted to see Puerto Rico become an integral part of our powerful nation.

Mr. Speaker, at 95 years of age, Paco continues to work hard every day. He is currently the President of the Campoamor Corporation, and the Santa Elena Development Company. This exceptional human being is married to Elsa Sabater-Recio. They recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. He is the loving father of 5, the doting grandfather of 14, beloved great-grandfather of 11, and father figure of many, many more.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Francisco Rovira-Calimano on his 95th birthday and to thank him for sharing his wonderful life, his heart, his time, and his energy

with his family, the people of Guayama, and all Puerto Ricans. Mr. Speaker, he has set a high standard for all of us to follow.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF TOASTMASTERS EN ESPAÑOL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the founding of Toastmasters en Español, the first and only Spanish-language Toastmasters club in the State of Nevada.

Toastmasters International is a global organization devoted to teaching communication and leadership skills. It has more than 211,000 members, with 10,500 clubs in 90 countries. Las Vegas is home to 50 of these clubs. With the mission statement, "to make effective communication a worldwide reality," Toastmasters en Español was founded by Maite Salazar to improve the public-speaking and leadership skills of the more than half-million Spanish-speaking residents of the Las Vegas Valley, and to help Spanish-language learners improve their skills in a constructive, affirming environment.

Toastmasters en Español held its first meeting on October 3, 2005, at the Cambridge Community Center in central Las Vegas. The initial meeting attracted dozens of participants. Within 3 weeks, the club had enough active members to be officially chartered by Toastmasters International.

Today, Toastmasters en Español has 31 active members who hail from nearly every country in the Spanish-speaking world, and from every walk of life. The club also includes many native-born Americans who understand the importance of being bilingual in an increasingly interdependent world.

Mr. Speaker, as the world becomes more globalized, communication becomes increasingly more important for peaceful cooperation. I applaud the efforts of Toastmasters en Español in this regard and look forward to their continued involvement and dedication to the improvement of their community and the entire State of Nevada.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CAROL SUNAKO CONNELLY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Carol Sunako Connelly. Carol was born on August 22, 1936 in Salinas, CA. She graduated from Stanford University School of Nursing in 1959 and worked briefly for the county of Alameda as a public health nurse.

Carol served 33 years in the Franklin McKinley School District in San Jose, CA as "school nurse extraordinaire", working at numerous schools in the district, including Fair, Kennedy, Los Arboles and Meadows.

Carol was dedicated to her professions of nursing and teaching. She inspired many lives,

both young and old throughout her years of service. Teachers depended on her extensive knowledge to help with everything from human anatomy to head lice.

She led many fascinating and unforgettable lessons in "grossology": countless hours cutting up eyeballs with third graders, lungs with fifth graders, and hearts with sixth graders. In addition to these grade level standards, she also conducted numerous dissections and the cooking of squid in the primary grades. There are not many school nurses who have either the time or the passion to work with children in the classrooms.

Carol retired in 2003 at the age of 67. Though very busy in retirement, she continued to volunteer her time to Franklin McKinley School District.

Carol lived in Santa Cruz for the past 15 years and was an active member of TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Mah Jongg Players of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Senior Center, and the Pleasure Point Community Church.

Carol died on August 28, 2005. She is survived by her three daughters, Adrienne Keane of Santa Cruz, Heather Haan of San Jose, and Jennifer Haan of Los Angeles, and four grandchildren, Quinn and Malia Keane and Roland and Ava Kemmerer. She is also survived by her sister, Joyce Kawahara, and her brothers, Lloyd and Milton Yoshioka, all from Petaluma. Carol Connelly will be sorely missed. To the thousands of students and teachers who crossed paths with Carol, she will never be forgotten.

STARK OPPOSES UNJUST REPUBLICAN BUDGET

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this unjust Republican budget that cuts funding for working class programs and does nothing to improve the U.S. deficit.

"Remember Pearl Harbor" was a rallying cry to unite Americans in shared sacrifice to respond to a military attack on our Nation. In contrast, 9/11 will be remembered as a tragedy exploited by President Bush to divide Americans and place the financial burden of his ill-advised policies on working class Americans.

President Bush and his Republican cronies have used this tragedy to justify an unnecessary war in Iraq and ensure that the wealthiest Americans contribute nothing to pay for it by giving them billions of dollars in tax cuts. As the wealthiest Republican party donors—like Halliburton—make billions from this failed war, the Republican budget sticks America's working families with the tab.

This Republican budget cuts health care, child care, student loans, foster care payments, job training and aid to the elderly and people with disabilities in exchange for the Iraq war and tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

Not even the extreme poverty displayed on television across this country of Hurricane Katrina's victims has been able to stir compassion into the cold hearts of the President and his Republican cronies in Congress. This bill forces states to stop providing job training and

vocational education programs for the poor and force millions of them into low-waged, dead end jobs with no health insurance or child care. In addition, many poor families will have to pay copays and deductibles for their health insurance on their incomes of less than \$19,000 a year for a family of four. Instead of giving the poor a hand up, this bill puts a boot in their face to push them down.

In true fashion, the Republican budget does take care of their rich lobbyist friends. For instance the Republicans decided to remove a provision that would have stopped taxpayers from overpaying HMOs participating in Medicare by \$22 billion. Had that provision remained in, cuts to programs that help people—not corporations—could have been reduced by that level.

Similar protections were given to the private lenders that provide student loans. The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee, Representative JOHN BOEHNER, met with these private lenders in December, who contribute handsomely to his campaigns, and said: "Relax. Stay calm. At the end of the day, I believe you'll be at least satisfied, or even perhaps happy. Know that I have all of you in my two trusted hands."

This budget clearly demonstrates that the Republican Party's corruption and cronyism causes real harm to average Americans. The next time a parent or former student has to pay extra for their student loan, or a senior citizen is forced to pay more for their health care, they should thank the Republican Party. You can be sure that the health insurance industry and private student lenders will be donating millions more to Republican campaigns to show their thanks.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this corrupt and unjust bill.

THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG EMERGENCY GUARANTEE ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, after the first month of implementation of the Medicare private drug plan, it is clear that a number of measures are needed to ensure that seniors and Americans with disabilities who need prescription drugs do not leave the pharmacy empty-handed or overcharged.

Representatives BROWN of Ohio, RANGEL, STARK, WAXMAN, SPRATT, and I are introducing legislation today to make sure seniors are guaranteed the prescription drug relief they were promised in 2003 and deserve today.

This bill would do the following:

Ensure beneficiaries get at least 60 days of needed medicines, whether or not the pharmacist can verify the plan they are in or whether or not the drug they need is covered by their plan.

Eliminate red tape for pharmacists by allowing the pharmacy to bill Medicare directly. Medicare would then collect the payments from the drug plans.

Ensure beneficiaries can navigate the complex system, by providing a standard notice and appeals process and information on how